

CLAIMS:

1. A device for reducing growth of hairs on human skin, which device comprises a source of electromagnetic radiation that emits in a wavelength range between 550 and 1200 nm, characterized in that the device comprises control means for limiting the deliverable energy density of the radiation on the skin to a maximum value between 1 and 12 J/cm².
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2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that, during operation, the control means limits the deliverable energy density of the radiation on the skin to a maximum value between 5 and 9 J/cm².
- 10 3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that, during operation, the control means selects the maximum value in accordance with selected properties of the skin to be treated.
4. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the wavelength range is
15 between 600 and 950 nm.
5. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the source is a pulsed source that emits radiation pulses with a duration between 1 and 100 ms.
- 20 6. A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 1 and 30 ms.
7. A device according to claim 6, characterized in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 10 and 20 ms.
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8. A device according to claim 2, characterized in that the source comprises a flash lamp having a wavelength spectrum ranging from 600 until 950 nm, and in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 10 and 20 ms.

9. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the source is a continuous source, the control means being designed to measure a velocity with which the device is moved over the skin to be treated and to adjust the energy density of the radiation emitted by the source as a function of the measured velocity, such that the energy density of the radiation delivered to an area of the skin being treated is at most equal to the maximum value.
10. A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the source comprises a flash lamp.
- 10 11. A method for reducing growth of hairs on human skin, comprising delivering at least one pulse of electromagnetic radiation to the skin, wherein a wavelength spectrum of the electromagnetic radiation is selected between 550 and 1200 nm, characterized in that an energy density of the electromagnetic radiation delivered to the skin is selected between 1 and 12 J/cm², preferably between 5 and 9 J/cm², wherein a duration of the pulse is between 15 1 and 100 ms, preferably between 1 and 30 ms, such that anagen follicles of said hairs are induced to a resting phase in their growth cycle, thereby substantially preventing permanent damage to follicles of the hairs.
12. A method according to claim 11, characterized in that the wavelength spectrum is between 600 and 950 nm.
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